

Covid alert: two positive Covid tests. Rachmaninov and Faure scores; Next rehearsal Tuesday 5th October 2021; Sue Spence memorial; Librarian urgently needed; Minutes secretary; Revised procedures for auditions; Tenor and sopranos needed for Messiah in December; Diary dates; What's On; Tell us if contact details change; Websites and passwords; Contact emails

Weekly Update Sunday 03 October 2021 (also at [Members Area / Weekly Updates](#))

Covid alert

Georgina Hulse, who conducted us last week, has tested positive for Covid, so anyone who was near should take a lateral flow test and stay away if it is positive. One of the basses also tested positive for Covid, more than likely via a school child. We have informed the basses who were sitting close to him. It's unlikely that the virus was passed on at our rehearsal, but anyone who feels nervous can stay away from the next couple of rehearsals if they'd feel safer doing so.

We should also make sure that we all follow the precautions outlined in our Risk Assessment. So please can everyone have another look at these and make every effort to follow the instructions. Key elements include:

- Don't attend if you have Covid-19 symptoms, test positive for Covid, or have been in contact with anyone who has tested positive for Covid, or are in quarantine
- Be double vaccinated, or have achieved a negative test within 2 days of the rehearsal
- Wear a face covering before entering the building and at all times except when singing
- Please try not to forget your membership card so you can sign in. If you do forget it someone will take your name as you arrive.
- Please don't congregate anywhere, especially not chatting in groups.
- Stay socially distanced while in the queue to sign-in or collect music.
- Space yourselves out as far as the seating allows
- Ventilation is key. Check that the windows and doors near you are open as wide as they can be, and ask someone to help open them if they aren't. You might need to wear warmer clothes than you would usually.

Faure and Rachmaninov scores

Next week we will be rehearsing the Faure and the Rachmaninov. Unfortunately, as you know, we do not have a Librarian to undertake the task of buying/hiring, marking and distributing scores for members to hire.

Last year, partly in the absence of a Librarian and partly to avoid handling multiple scores, we asked everyone to buy their own Rachmaninov score. We printed links to good sources of the scores for a number of months. Not everyone bought a score at that time, probably because they did not take part in the virtual Rachmaninov rehearsals or the concert in St Mark's in July. Now that we are planning to sing the Rachmaninov in March 2022, please can those members without scores, buy one now?

The version of the Rachmaninov Vespers that we will use is ALL NIGHT VIGIL Opus 37 by Musica Russica, ISBN 0-9629460-6-0 (it has a pink cover). It costs £29.95 from [Ackerman Music](#), £31.50 from [Music Room](#) or [Presto Music](#), or you might be able to get a good second-hand copy from eBay or Amazon (use the [SPC Amazon Smile page](#) link to make a bit of money for the Chorus).

The Chorus did purchase 40 copies of the score during the pandemic, for those members whose financial circumstances were such that they could not afford to buy their own. We distributed these scores to 31 members, so there are 9 scores left, which we will need to loan to new members, who obviously can't be asked to buy a score before their audition. Happily there are more than 9 new members, but it does mean we don't have enough scores for new members. If there is anyone who borrowed a score who now finds they could afford to buy one, we'd be most grateful to receive them back to pass on to new members. Please return them to Anne Adams at rehearsal on Tuesday, Many thanks for your help with this.

Also during the pandemic we provided a link to the Faure and asked members to print out their own scores. Chairman Paul Henstridge very kindly offered to print out copies for those members who don't have access to a printer. His offer still stands, so if you don't have a printer please contact Paul (email at end of every update). Here is the link to the Faure score for any members who need it: https://www.cpd.org/wiki/images/3/37/Faure_Requiem_VS_PML.pdf

Next rehearsal Tuesday 5th October 2021 at King Edward's Upper School

Our next rehearsal will be on Tuesday 5th October, back at King Edwards Upper School at 7pm. We will rehearse the music for the After Hours concert.

The rehearsal schedule was circulated a couple of weeks ago, but a number of members did not download it so it is attached again today. The schedule is, as always, available via the website at [Members Area / Rehearsals](#) – user name and password are at the bottom of every update. The schedule will be extended as soon as we have fixed a date for the Rachmaninov concert, which will be sometime in spring – probably 12th March 2022.

For travel and access details for King Edwards, both Upper and Lower Schools, please see our website, at [Members Area / Rehearsals](#) or [Join Us / Rehearsals](#)

After the rehearsal, a number of members retire to the nearest pub, the Francis Newton. It's a very friendly bunch, and everyone is very welcome to come along – especially new people. Take your car with you though - the gates are locked after we leave the premises.

Sue Spence memorial service on 9 October 2021

Thank you to the 36 members who have volunteered to sing at the memorial service in Firth Hall on Saturday 9 October, for tenor John's Spence's late wife Sue. We currently have 14 sopranos, 8 altos, 4 tenors and 10 basses. If you'd like to sing, please send your name and Chorus number, and whether you have a copy of the Faure, to AnneAdams@sheffieldphil.org

Grateful thanks to bass Peter Verity, who has kindly agreed to accompany us on the day. Thanks also to soprano Georgina Hulse for the loan of her keyboard, and to our President Rachel Copley, who will conduct.

On the day the Chorus should gather at approximately 2:00 – 2:30 pm in Firth Court where the University will provide a green room with drinks and a place to leave bags etc. The presentation should start around 2.30; if anyone would like to attend this, they are very welcome to do so – just slip in at the back of the hall and take any available seat, or stand if there are no seats. Please wear smart outfits, with jackets for the men - there's no need for black or somber colours, as it's a celebration of Sue's life rather than a funeral.

We will have a short run-through after the main rehearsal on Tuesday 5 October. Please assemble downstairs as quickly as you can as we must vacate the premises by 9pm.

Urgent plea - Chorus Librarian

The Chorus is in desperate need of a Librarian. Georgina Hulse has sorted the music for the After Hours and for Christmas, but is unable to help out longer term.

So please, do give some thought as to whether you could help out. The role would naturally split into three, as roughly outlined below, so if you think the whole thing would be too much but you'd be willing to take on one of the sub-roles, please get in touch with Administrator Anne Adams administrator@sheffieldphil.org, or any member of the committee. Georgina is happy to talk to anyone who would like to know more detail, as is Els Pearse, who stood down last year after many years of exceptional service.

Role One: Search, order or hire music. Search for sources of the music we need, arrange the hire or purchase of music in liaison with our Finance Officer, arrange for it to be delivered.

Role Two: Collect or take delivery of the music, number the scores prior to distribution, take it to rehearsals for distribution. Take hired scores back to the source or arrange for it to be delivered, arrange payment of fines for late returns via Finance Officer.

Role Three: Distribute and collect music. Organise the distribution of music at rehearsals using a team of helpers, keep a record of who has which copy, organise return of music following concerts, check that all copies are returned, chase up any late or non-returns and arrange for the members concerned to cover the late return fines.

Urgent plea - Minutes Secretary

The Chorus also needs a Minutes Secretary, to take notes at committee meetings and the AGM. This is not an onerous task, and Administrator Anne Adams is happy to help and advise whoever takes this on. Please consider offering your services in this way.

Revised procedures for auditions

Darius, Rachel, Maggie and the committee have been in discussions about auditions over the summer. As a result we have amended the audition procedures, to take into account more up-to-date thinking in choirs across the country, and following experience we gained during the pandemic. The revised procedures are listed in various places on the website, eg for new members at [Join Us / Auditions](#) and for existing members at [Members Area / Re-auditions](#). In essence, the changes are:

- For auditions, new people will be asked to sing a piece of their own choice up to about 3 minutes long, accompanied or unaccompanied.
- Maggie will then take the person through some exercises including a few scales to determine range.
- There is no longer a sight-reading test, though some music-reading ability is expected. Instead, Darius will chat to the person about music-reading in the context of their previous musical experiences
- There will be some simple aural tests to see how they pick things up by ear.
- Re-auditions will involve scales to see if your vocal range has changed, and something we are currently rehearsing or have recently performed – but nothing you haven't rehearsed.

We have amended the Chorus Rules to formally reflect these changes; you will find the up-to-date version of the Rules on the website at [Members Area / Chorus Rules](#)

One tenor and two sopranos needed for *Messiah* Monday 6 December 2021

Thank you to those who have volunteered to sing *Messiah* at Sheffield cathedral on Monday 6 December 2021. One more tenor and two sopranos are still needed. There is no afternoon rehearsal on the day of the performance, and now only two rehearsals at Cemetery Road Baptist Church, Napier Street on the two preceding Mondays at 7.30pm. It's worth remembering that Sheffield Bach Choir sing every single movement. Any tenors who are keen

to sing Messiah on this date, please email bass Nigel Wright at wrightnigel@yahoo.com , while sopranos should email Administrator Anne Adams at administrator@sheffieldphil.org

Diary dates (*dates in italics are electives, ie, voluntary*)

Please note that confirmed concert dates and details, including piano and tutti rehearsal dates, times and locations, are posted on the Chorus website as soon as they become available so that members can plan their activities, at [Members Area / Diary dates](#) (password details provided at the end of this and every weekly update).

2021-22

- *Saturday 9 October 2021 (Memorial service for Sue Spence, Firth Hall, likely to include excerpts from Faure's Requiem) – elective (volunteers wanted, see above)*
- An After Hours concert in the City Hall ballroom, Wed 3 November 2021 9.15 - 10pm (part of Sheffield International Concert Season - SICS). NB. Tickets for this are only available to attendees of the Halle concert, in advance, ie, none available on the night.
- *Wednesday 1st December 2021 – concert for Friends of Sheffield Museums, Millennium Gallery 7pm (elective)*
- *December carol singing at Sheffield Station – date to be announced - elective*
- Saturday 18 December 2021 2.30pm. City Hall carol concert with Black Dyke Band and Petroc Trelawny (part of SICS). NB only one concert, in the afternoon.
- *Faure Requiem* at City Hall with Manchester Camerata, January 2022 (part of SICS)
- Rachmaninov *All Night Vigil* probably 12th March 2022 at St Mark's Church Broomhill, yet to be confirmed. Self-funded.
- Saturday 23 April 2022: Re-scheduled Handel *Messiah* concert with Black Dyke Band, City Hall, with German and French choirs – yet to be confirmed. Self funded.
- Walton *Belshazzar's Feast* at City Hall, June 2022 (part of SICS)

2022-23

- Saturday in December 2022: City Hall carol concert(s) with Black Dyke Band. SICS.
- Sunday 19 March 2023 (Mahler Symphony No. 2 City Hall with Hallam Choral Society, Hallam Sinfonia and Sheffield Philharmonic Orchestra, conductor George Morton, forming the finale of Classical Sheffield's 10th anniversary Festival Weekend)
- Re-scheduled Verdi *Requiem* at City Hall, sometime in 2022-23. SICS.
- re-scheduled Mahler Symphony No. 8 at Bridgewater Hall possibly May/June 2023

Under discussion

- Rutter *Gloria* - Black Dyke Band keen to do this with us sometime

What's On

- Monday 4th October 10am, Whirlow Spirituality Centre. Nicola Farnon with Concerteenies
- Thursday 7 October, 8pm, St John's Church, Ranmoor. Paul Hale (organ)
- Friday 15 October, 7pm, Sheffield City Hall, The Hallé
- Friday 15 October, 7pm, Sheffield Cathedral, Brigantes Orchestra
- Saturday 16 October, 4pm, All Saints Church Darton. Elizabeth Charlesworth
- Thursday 21 October at 7.30pm, Firth Hall, Acoustic Triangle
- Friday 22 October 2021 at 7.159m, Crucible Studio, Ensemble 360 play Czech music
- Saturday 23 October 2021 at 11am, Crucible Theatre, Ensemble 360 and Polly Ives, Izzy Gizmo family concert
- Saturday 23 October 2021 at 11.30am, St Matthew's Carver Street, Elizabeth Charlesworth and Richard Taylor

Info and tickets: Classical Sheffield's What's On page <https://classicalsheffield.org.uk/events>

What to do if your contact details change

If any of your contact details change, including address, email or telephone number, please send a message to emailchange2019@sheffieldphil.org to ensure that your details are amended on the Membership database and that you continue to receive the weekly update.

Weekly updates, Chorus and Classical Sheffield websites and passwords

If ever you don't receive the weekly update, please contact Membership Officer Marianne Grayson (see below). However, it is uploaded every week in [Members Area / Weekly Updates](#). The chorus user name is the same for every member, it's the word *member* and the password is *darius5*; please don't share these. Urgent messages are always listed above the log-in box so members can read the important part without logging in.

The Members Area of the website lists all the information included in the update, eg rehearsal details, rehearsal notes and links to recordings, concert and re-audition arrangements, as well as dates for the following season, our official stage procedure, Darius' rehearsal schedule, how to look after your voice etc.

The website is available at <http://sheffieldphil.org> or via a Google search. If taken to an error page it is likely that your computer or laptop has stored the old website in its memory (cache) and you should clear it by pressing REFRESH, or F5 on your PC keyboard. Alternatively, it may be that your router needs re-setting; try turning it off for 10 minutes before switching it on again. If none of this works please contact Anne Adams in the first instance, and she will inform the webmasters Matthew Morgan and Bill Best.

A reminder of the Classical Sheffield Member's Area: <https://classicalsheffield.org.uk/about> ; the password is **moremusic**.

Contact emails

MD Darius Battiwalla dariusbattiwalla@talktalk.net

Chair Paul Henstridge chairman@sheffieldphil.org

Administrator Anne Adams administrator@sheffieldphil.org

Membership Officer Marianne Grayson MarianneGrayson@sheffieldphil.org

Finance Officer Graham Dawson GrahamDawson@sheffieldphil.org

New members Officer Sally Turnbull SallyTurnbull@sheffieldphil.org

Privacy Policy – summary SPC uses member emails in line with the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) May 2018, ie, only to help run the Chorus and keep members informed about SPC activities. SPC will never pass your data to third parties - if another member asks for your contact details SPC will only ever share them if you consent. SPC will never use your data to send messages from third parties. Weekly updates are uploaded to the Chorus website every week, however email is the easiest and quickest method of sharing information so we hope you continue to allow us to send them to you. However, you may opt out by contacting administrator@sheffieldphil.org. The full Privacy Policy is on the Chorus website at <http://sheffieldphil.org/about-us/privacy-policy/>